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Docket No. DE030412

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a first image and a second image, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting, by an image processing device, at least one first landmark in the first image;

selecting, by an image processing device, at least one second landmark in the second image, wherein the at least one first landmark corresponds to the at least one second landmark; and

registering, by an image processing device, the first and second images by using a similarity value which relates to a similarity of a first region in the first image determined by the at least one first landmark and a second region in the second image determined by the at least one second landmark, the registering including selecting at least one further first landmark in the first image and at least one further second landmark in the second image if the similarity value is less than as a function of a pre-selected value of the similarity value.

2. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] method of claim 1 registering a first image and a second image, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting, by an image processing device, at least one first landmark in the first image;

selecting, by an image processing device, at least one second landmark in the second image, wherein the at least one first landmark corresponds to the at least one second landmark; and

registering, by an image processing device, the first and second images by using a similarity value which relates to a similarity of a first region in the first image determined by the at least one first landmark and a second region in the second image determined by the at least one second landmark, the registering including selecting at least one further

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first landmark in the first image and at least one further second landmark in the second image as a function of a pre-selected value of the similarity value,

wherein, for the first image having a first number of dimensions, a second number of first landmarks is selected; wherein, for the second image having the first number of dimensions, a third number of second landmarks is selected; wherein the second number of first landmarks determine first vertices of first simplices for determining a fourth number of regions in the first image; wherein the third number of second landmarks determine second vertices of second simplices for determining the fourth number of regions in the second image; wherein the second number is the first number plus one; wherein the first and second landmarks are selected in accordance with a qualifying function; and wherein the third number is equal to the second number.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein, for each of the second number of second landmarks, the local deformation field is determined for determining a first global deformation field which approximately describes a deformation required to the first image for registration onto the second image.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein, for each of the fourth number of regions in the first image, a first similarity value is determined relating to a similarity between a respective one of the regions in the first image to a respective corresponding one of the regions in the second image by using the first global deformation field.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein it is determined whether there is a fifth region of the regions in the first image in which the first similarity value is less than a preset threshold value; wherein, when there is a fifth region, a third landmark is selected in the fifth region for determining third simplices in the fifth region which determine a plurality of sixth regions; wherein, when there is a fifth region, a fourth landmark is selected in a seventh region of the regions in the second image for determining fourth simplices in the seventh region which determine a plurality of eighth regions; wherein the third landmark corresponds to the fourth landmark such that the sixth regions correspond to the eighth regions; wherein, for each of the sixth regions, a

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second similarity value is determined relating to a similarity between a respective one of the sixth regions to a respective one of the eighth regions by using a second global deformation field which has been refined by using a further local deformation field of the third landmark.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the method is iteratively repeated until all similarities exceed the preset threshold value.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is applied in medical imaging to one of CT data sets, MRI data sets, PET data sets, SPECT data sets, and ultrasonic imaging data sets.

8. (Currently Amended) Image processing device, comprising:

a memory for storing a first image and a second image; and

an image processor for registering the first image and the second image,

wherein the image processor is adapted to perform the following operation:

selecting at least one first landmark in the first image;

selecting at least one second landmark in the second image, wherein the at least one first landmark corresponds to the at least one second landmark; and

registering the first and second images by using a similarity value which relates to a similarity of a first region in the first image determined by the at least one first landmark and a second region in the second image determined by the at least one second landmark, the registering including selecting at least one further first landmark in the first image and at least one further second landmark in the second image if the similarity value is less than ~~as a function of~~ a pre-selected value of the similarity value.

9. (Currently Amended) Computer program on a computer-readable device for registering a first image and a second image, wherein the computer program causes a processor to perform the following operation when the computer program is executed on the processor:

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selecting at least one first landmark in the first image;  
selecting at least one second landmark in the second image, wherein the at least one first landmark corresponds to the at least one second landmark; and  
registering the first and second images by using a similarity value which relates to a similarity of a first region in the first image determined by the at least one first landmark and a second region in the second image determined by the at least one second landmark, the registering including selecting at least one further first landmark in the first image and at least one further second landmark in the second image if the similarity value is less than ~~as a function of a pre-selected value of the similarity value.~~

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting the at least one further first landmark in the first image and the at least one further second landmark in the second image is based on the similarity value not exceeding the pre-selected value.